



***United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 14, 2005**

**CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
HERBERT HADAD, MEGAN GAFFNEY  
HEATHER TASKER, BRIDGET KELLY  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE  
(212) 637-2600**

**U.S. NAVY PERSONNEL FEDERALLY CHARGED  
IN MARRIAGE FRAUD SCHEME**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and MARK J. MERSHON, the Assistant Director in Charge of the New York Office of the FBI, announced the arrests today of 10 persons, including six present and one former member of the U.S. Navy stationed on the U.S.S. Eisenhower in Norfolk, Virginia, for conspiring to enter into sham marriages to help illegal aliens obtain authorization to reside lawfully in the United States. According to a criminal Complaint filed in federal court in Manhattan and unsealed today, KENNETH ADAM HOWARD of Baltimore, Maryland, recruited men and women, including U.S. Navy personnel, to enter into sham marriages in New York with persons they believed to be illegal aliens, but who were, in fact, either FBI undercover agents or confidential informants or cooperating witnesses.

As alleged in the Complaint, the charges are the result of an FBI sting operation which began when the FBI determined that HOWARD had previously arranged for defendant SIHAM BOUTACHALI, an illegal immigrant from Morocco, to enter into a sham marriage with a U.S. citizen. As part of the sting operation, a cooperating witness ("CW"), posing as someone who ran an immigration business to assist clients in obtaining lawful immigration status in the United States, then contacted HOWARD. In a series of secretly recorded phone calls and meetings, the CW told HOWARD that he had clients, who were illegal aliens, who wanted to enter into sham marriages. According to the Complaint, HOWARD offered to provide people to marry CW's clients at a cost of between approximately \$3,000 and \$4,000 per marriage. HOWARD also offered to sell the CW fraudulent identification documents, such as fake U.S. passports, social security cards, and drivers' licenses.

The Complaint alleges that HOWARD recruited GARY NATHANIEL MOORE, a/k/a "Jamal," JAVIN LARREL BROWN, KEITH ALLEN BURRIS, DOMINIQUE CRAWFORD, JIBRI OMARI USHER, and SHAUNYE KALENA

WALKER, who are current members of the U.S. Navy, JOSHUA JACKSON, who is a former member of the U.S. Navy, and CHRISTOPHER MURRAY, to enter into sham marriages with CW's clients. HOWARD and these defendants, the Complaint alleges, traveled to New York, where they met with the CW and persons they believed to be illegal aliens from Egypt, Russia, South America, and Europe, who were CW's clients. The "clients" were, in fact, either FBI undercover agents or informants and cooperating witnesses working under the FBI's supervision.

According to the Complaint, the defendants HOWARD recruited traveled with their prospective spouses to County Clerks' Offices in Manhattan and Queens to apply for and obtain marriage licenses. The CW paid these defendants up to \$1,500 upon obtaining a marriage license and promised to pay up to another \$1,500 when the marriages were actually performed. In addition, one of the defendants, SHAUNYE KALENA WALKER, explained to the CW that she could apply to the Navy for increased financial benefits based upon her sham marriage.

HOWARD, MOORE, BROWN, BURRIS, JACKSON and MURRAY were arrested today in Manhattan. BOUTACHALI was arrested today at her home in Brooklyn, New York. HOWARD, MOORE, BROWN, BURRIS, JACKSON, MURRAY and BOUTACHALI will be presented later today before United States Magistrate Judge MICHAEL H. DOLINGER.

USHER, WALKER, and CRAWFORD were also arrested today in Virginia and will be presented in Federal District Court in the Eastern District of Virginia.

If convicted, each defendant faces a maximum sentence of five years in jail and a \$250,000 fine.

Mr. GARCIA praised the efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and thanked the Navy Criminal Investigative Services for its cooperation in this case.

Assistant United States Attorney MIRIAM E. ROCAH is in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Complaint are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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